

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 716

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 17450

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: DISSIDENT ROUND-UP

1. GENERAL GRIGORENKO GRIGORENKO TELLS US THAT HE HAS RARELY BEEN SO DEPRESSED OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DISSIDENT WORLD. HE FEELS THAT THE POLICY OF ALLOWING SOME DISSIDENTS TO EMIGRATE WHILE SELECTIVELY REPRESSING THOSE WHO REMAIN BEHIND HAS REDUCED THE MOVEMENT'S ACTIVITIES TO A NEW LOW LEVEL. HE SEES NO HOPES FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE, SINCE THE PARTY AND STATE BUREAUCRACIES, SENSING THAT HIGHT-LEVEL PLITICAL CHANGE IS NEAR, ARE EVEN MORE LIKELY THAN USUAL TO ERR ON THE SIDE OF CAUTION AND REPRESSION. GRIGORENKO DENIES THAT HIS PESSIMISM STEMS FROM HIS OWN RELATIVELY POOR HEALTH (HE BROKE HIS LEG IN AUGUST WHILE HE WAS ON VACATION AND HIS DIABETES HAS BECOME AGGRAVATED); RATHER HE CLAIMS TO SEE A MORE ACTIVELY REPRESSIVE POLICY BY THE AUTHORITIES, COMBINED WITH A LESSENING IN THE POLITICAL ACUMENT OF THOSE DISSIDENTS STILL ACTIVE.

2. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. VLADIMIR AL'BREKHT, THE SECRETARY OF THE SOVIET CHAPTER OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, APPEALED TO THE MOSCOW MUNICIPAL COURT IN CONNECTION WITH HIS CASE AGAINST LITERATURNAYA GAZETA (MOSCOW 14999 AND 14549). AS HE EXPECTED, THE HIGHER INSTANCE REFUSED TO REVERSE A LOWER COURT FINDING THAT HE HAD NO CASE AGAINST THE NEWSPAPER. AL'BREKHT CLAIMS NOT TO BE
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DISCOURAGED BY THIS; FOR ONE THING HE WAS ALLOWED TO MAKE

HIS WHOLE DEFENSE STATEMENT AND HE EXPECTS THAT IT WILL SOON BE CIRCULATING IN SAMIZDAT. HE COMMENTS THAT HE NEVER EXPECTED TO GET THE CASE EVEN AS FAR AS HE DID.

3. PETER STARCHIK. THE SOVIET POET AND SINGER HAS BEEN IN DETENTION IN A PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC/PRISON SINCE MID-SEPTEMBER. WE ARE INFORMED THAT HE WILL PROBABLY BE DECLARED LEGALLY SANE AND THEN TRIED ON THE CHARGE OF POSSESSING ANTI-SOVIET MATERIALS. IN THIS CASE THE MATERIALS ARE THE WORDS TO SOME OF HIS SONGS. A "FREE STARCHIK" CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN ORGANIZED IN MOSCOW AND ITS MEMBERS ARE CIRCULATING DRAFT PETITIONS AND OPEN LETTERS. THE ORGANIZERS HOPE TO USE THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE FRENCH AND ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTIES IN THE CASE OF LEONID PLYUSHCH AS A PRECEDENT TO INVOLVE THEM IN THE STARCHIK CASE.

4. THE ORLOV CSCE GROUP. WE NOTE THAT THE CSCE GROUP HEADED BY YURIY ORLOV HAS NOW EQUIPPED ITSELF WITH STATIONERY. THE PAPER - PRESUMABLY PRODUCED CLANDESTINELY - LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THE STATIONERY OF ANY SOVIET ADMINISTRATIVE ORGAN AND SAYS: "GROUP FOR ASSISTANCE IN FULFILLING THE HELSINKI AGREEMENTS IN THE USSR." MEMBERS OF THE ORLOV GROUP ARE CURRENTLY MOST CONCERNED ABOUT THE CASE OF ONE YURI GASTEV, A MATHEMATICIAN WHO SPENT FOUR YEARS IN PRISON UNDER STALIN. GASTEV REPORTEDLY IS ONE OF THE KEY MEMBERS OF THE GROUP THAT PUTS OUT KHRONIKA. IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS HE HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO FOUR SEARCHES, THE MOST RECENT ONE OF HIS APARTMENT OCCURRING WHILE HE WAS ABSENT.

5. A RUDKEVICH AFFAIR. WE HAVE LEARNED OF THE RECENT ARREST OF A LENINGRAD DISSIDENT NAMED RUDKEVICH. OUR SOURCES SAY THAT RUDKEVICH IS A CANDIDATE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES AND HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE PUBLICATION OF AN UNDERGROUND JOURNAL CALLED "JOURNAL 37". SOME TWENTY NUMBERS OF THE JOURNAL HAVE REPORTEDLY APPEARED AND WE

ARE TOLD THAT THE JOURNAL IS LITERARY, NOT POLITICAL. WE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY HEARD OF THIS JOURNAL.

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